**The City School**

**BLOG WORKSHEET**

**BIOLOGY CLASS 9**

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The teeth are the hardest substances in the human body. Besides being essential for chewing, the teeth play an important role in speech. Parts of the teeth include:

• Enamel: The hardest, white outer part of the [tooth](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/picture-of-the-teeth). Enamel is mostly made of [calcium](https://www.webmd.com/drugs/2/drug-1575/calcium%2Boral/details) phosphate, a rock-hard mineral.
• Dentin: A layer underlying the enamel. It is a hard tissue that contains microscopic tubes. When the enamel is damaged, heat  or cold can enter the tooth through these paths and cause sensitivity or pain.
• Pulp: The softer, living inner structure of teeth. [Blood](https://www.webmd.com/heart/anatomy-picture-of-blood) vessels and nerves run through the pulp of the teeth.
• Cementum: A layer of connective tissue that binds the roots of the teeth firmly to the gums and jawbone.
• Periodontal ligament: Tissue that helps hold the teeth tightly against the jaw.

A normal adult [mouth](https://www.webmd.com/webmd/consumer_assets/controlled_content/healthwise/multimedia/anatomy_of_the_mouth_multimedia_tp12512.xml) has 32 teeth, which (except for [wisdom teeth](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/wisdom-teeth-adult)) have erupted by about age 13:

• Incisors (8 total): The middlemost four teeth on the upper and lower jaws.
• Canines (4 total): The pointed teeth just outside the incisors.
• Premolars (8 total): Teeth between the canines and molars.
• Molars (8 total): Flat teeth in the rear of the [mouth](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/ss/slideshow-mouth-problems), best at grinding food.
• [Wisdom teeth](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/ss/slideshow-tooth-problems) or third molars (4 total): These teeth erupt at around age 18, but are often surgically removed to prevent displacement of other teeth.

The crown of each [tooth](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/dental-care-smile-10/slideshow-pretty-teeth) projects into the [mouth](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/rm-quiz-mouth-myths). The root of each [tooth](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/rm-quiz-teeth-truth) descends below the gum line, into the jaw.

## Teeth Conditions

* [Cavities](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/dental-health-cavities) (caries): Bacteria evade removal by brushing and [saliva](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/what-is-saliva) and damage the enamel and deeper structures of teeth. Most cavities occur on molars and premolars.
* [Tooth decay](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/tc/tooth-decay-topic-overview): A general name for disease of the teeth, including cavities.
* [Periodontitis](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/gingivitis-periodontal-disease): [Inflammation](https://www.webmd.com/arthritis/about-inflammation) of the deeper structures of the teeth (periodontal ligament, jawbone, and cementum). Poor oral hygiene is usually to blame.
* [Gingivitis](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/gingivitis-periodontal-disease): [Inflammation](https://www.webmd.com/women/ss/slideshow-what-is-inflammation) of the surface portion of the gums, around and between the crowns of the teeth. Plaque and [tartar](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/tartar-dental-calculus-overview) buildup can lead to [gingivitis](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/gingivitis-periodontal-disease).
* [Plaque](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/plaque-and-your-teeth): A sticky, colorless film made of bacteria and the substances they secrete. Plaque develops quickly on teeth after eating sugary food, but can be easily brushed off.
* [Tartar](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/tartar-dental-calculus-overview): If plaque is not removed, it mixes with minerals to become tartar, a harder substance. Tartar requires professional cleaning for removal.
* [Overbite](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/crooked-teeth-misaligned-bites): The upper teeth protrude significantly over the lower teeth.
* [Underbite](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/crooked-teeth-misaligned-bites): The lower teeth protrude significantly past the upper teeth.
* [Teeth grinding](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/teeth-grinding-bruxism) ([bruxism](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/teeth-grinding-bruxism)): Stress, [anxiety](https://www.webmd.com/anxiety-panic/default.htm), or [sleep disorders](https://www.webmd.com/sleep-disorders/default.htm) can cause teeth grinding, usually during [sleep](https://www.webmd.com/sleep-disorders/ss/slideshow-sleep-disorders-overview). A dull [headache](https://www.webmd.com/migraines-headaches/default.htm) or sore jaw can be symptoms.
* [Tooth sensitivity](https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/tooth-sensitivity): When one or more teeth become sensitive to hot or cold, it may mean the dentin is exposed.